This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-32. (Cancelled)

Claim 33. (Currently Amended) An embolectomy catheter system for removing a blood clot or other embolus from a location within the vasculature of a human or animal subject ~~such obstructive matter from a blood vessel~~, the catheter comprising:

a guidewire;

an embolectomy catheter that is advanceable over said guidewire, said embolectomy catheter comprising:

an elongate flexible catheter body having a proximal end, a distal end, an inner tube, and an outer tube terminating proximal to ~~just short of~~ a distal end of the catheter body;

~~a clot~~ an embolus removal ~~device~~ apparatus on the inner tube, the embolus ~~clot~~ removal ~~device~~ apparatus being initially disposed in a collapsed configuration and constrained in ~~its~~ said collapsed configuration by a portion of the outer tube; and

a distal tip of the catheter body being located on the inner tube and adapted to pass through a blood clot or other embolus to be removed; ~~and~~

wherein the outer tube is axially retractable to remove the constraint on the ~~clot~~ embolus removal ~~device~~ apparatus such that the ~~clot~~ embolus removal ~~device~~ apparatus may radially expand from said collapsed configuration to a deployed configuration without requiring axial movement or rotation of the guidewire.

Claim 34. (Currently Amended) A system according to ~~The catheterof~~ claim 33, wherein the outer tube extends distally within a proximal mouth of the distal tip prior to being retracted.

Claim 35-46. (Cancelled)

Claim 47. (Currently Amended) A system according to ~~The catheter of~~ claim 33, wherein the ~~clot~~ embolus removal ~~device~~ apparatus has a proximal end and a distal end, the distal end being attached to the inner tube and the proximal end being free to slide axially over the inner tube ~~, the proximal end of the clot removal device~~ apparatus ~~being axially displaced away from the distal end within the outer tube to longitudinally stretch and radially constrict the device in a second state prior to its deployment to the first state, the clot removal device in the second state being passable through the clot~~.

Claim 48-50. (Cancelled)

Claim 51. (New) A system according to claim 33 wherein a lumen through which the guidewire may pass extends through the inner tube and through the embolus removal device.

Claim 52. (New) A system according to claim 33 wherein the guidewire has a lumen through which a substance may be infused.

Claim 53. (New) A system according to claim 33 wherein the embolus removal apparatus expands from its collapsed configuration to its deployed configuration without requiring rotation of any portion of the embolectomy catheter or guidewire.

Claim 54. (New) A method for substantially removing an embolus from a location within the vasculature or a human or animal subject, said method comprising the steps of:

A) providing a guidewire;

B) providing a catheter device that comprises i) an elongate flexible catheter body having a proximal end, a distal end, an inner tube, and an outer tube terminating just short of a distal end of the catheter body and ii) an embolus removal apparatus on the inner tube, said clot removal apparatus being initially disposed in a collapsed configuration and constrained in said collapsed configuration by a portion of the outer tube; wherein a distal tip of the catheter body is located on the inner tube and is advanceable through the embolus to be removed and wherein the outer tube is axially retractable to remove the constraint on the clot removal device such that the clot removal device may radially expand to a deployed configuration without requiring rotation of any portion of the catheter body;

C) inserting the guidewire into the vasculature of the subject;

D) advancing the catheter device over the guidewire to a position within the vasculature of the subject where the distal tip has passed substantially through the embolus;

E) retracting the outer tube without concurrent axial or rotational movement of the guidewire, thereby causing the embolus removal apparatus to expand from its collapsed configuration to its deployed configuration;

F) moving the embolus removal apparatus while in its deployed configuration such that the embolus is substantially captured in the embolus removal apparatus; and

G) withdrawing the guidewire, catheter device and the embolus from the subject's body.

Claim 55. (New) A method according to claim 54 wherein a lumen extends through the inner tube and through the embolus removal apparatus and the guidwire extends through that lumen.

Claim 56. (New) A method according to claim 55 wherein the guidewire is advanced through the embolus prior to performance of Step D.

Claim 57. (New) A method according to claim 56 wherein the guidewire has a lumen through which a substance may be infused and wherein said method further comprises the step of infusing a substance through the lumen of the guidewire.